AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTINGS OF CLAIMS

1.   (Currently amended) A system for controlling the use of a software application on a plurality of computers, the system comprising:

a plurality of computers, each computer of the plurality of computers capable of running a given software application,

a server having a server store,

communication channels respectively permitting communication between each computer of the plurality of computers and the server, and

a transaction arrangement operable respectively between each computer of the plurality of computers and the server via the communication channels for enabling a predetermined use of the given software application by each computer of the plurality of computers,

wherein the server controls the predetermined use of the given software application by one computer of the plurality of computers according to conditions stored in the server store, wherein the given software application and the one computer are identifiable by the server using a license, and wherein the license is <u>voluntarily</u> returnable by the one computer to the server for use by another computer of the plurality of computers.

2. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein the transaction arrangement determines access of each computer of the plurality of computers to the given software application.

3. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein the transaction arrangement determines parameters of operation for the given software application.

4. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein the server controls the number of the plurality of computers authorized to run the given software application.

5. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein the given software application comprises a computer program operable under the license, and wherein the transaction arrangement comprises a license management system for verifying the availability for each computer of the plurality of computers of the license for the computer program.

6. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the license management system controls license rights available under the license, and configures each computer of the plurality of computers to operate according to the license rights.

7. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the license management system stores therein different possible license rights available under the license, selects a license right of the license rights from the server store, and activates the license right for each computer of the plurality of computers.

8. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 7, wherein the each computer of the plurality of computers stores details of the license rights, and updates details on use of the computer program.

9.   (Previously presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the license management system transfers the license from one computer of the plurality of computers to another computer of the plurality of computers.

10.   (Previously presented) A system according to claim 9, wherein the license management system inhibits operation of the computer program on the one computer following the transfer.

11.   (Currently amended) A license management system for controlling the use of a given software application respectively on a plurality of computers, the license management system comprising:

an application store associated with each computer of the plurality of computers for storing a copy of the given software application;

a license store for storing information concerning a license to operate the given software application, wherein the given software application comprises a computer program operable under the license;

a software identification store for storing identification information relating to the given software application;

a computer identification store for storing identification information relating to each computer of the plurality of computers; and

a transaction arrangement operatively linking the application store, the license store, the software identification store and the computer identification store, the transaction arrangement being responsive to a request from one computer of the plurality of computers for use of the given software application to verify whether the given

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software application is available for use by the one computer of the plurality of computers and to transmit to the one computer the license to use the given software application in the event that the given software application is so available, wherein the license is <u>voluntarily</u> returnable by the one computer to the server for use by another computer of the plurality of computers.

12. (Previously presented) A license management system according to claim 11 comprising a server providing the license store, the software identification store and the computer identification store.

13. (Previously presented) A license management system according to claim 11, wherein the server controls the number of licenses available for the given software application.

14. (Previously presented) A license management system according to claim 13, wherein the server transfers a license from one computer of the plurality of computers to another computer of the plurality of computers.

15. (Previously presented) A license management system according to claim 14, wherein the server inhibits operation of the computer program on the one computer following the transfer.

16. (Previously presented) A license management system according to claim 11 further comprising a license store provided at each computer of the plurality of computers for storing locally information concerning the license.

17. (Previously presented) A license management system according to claim 11, wherein the transaction arrangement determines parameters of operation for the given software application.

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18. (Previously presented) A license management system according to claim 11, wherein the transaction arrangement verifies license rights available under the license.

19. (Previously presented) A license management system according to claim 11, wherein the license store has a data store for storing therein different possible license rights available under the license, and wherein the transaction arrangement selects a license right of the license rights, and activates the license right for each computer of the plurality of computers.

20. (Previously presented) A license management system according to claim 19, wherein each computer of the plurality of computers stores details of the license rights, and updates the license rights according to the current state of the license right on use of the computer program.

21. (Currently amended) A computer of a plurality of computers programmed to perform a transaction for enabling the operation of a given software application, the transaction comprising:

creating a license file for a license to operate the given software application, wherein the license is <u>voluntarily</u> returnable by one computer of the plurality of computers to the server for use by another computer of the plurality of computers;

assigning to the license file a serial number representing the given software application;

assigning to the license file an identification code representing the computer;

transmitting to a server a request to execute the given software application, the request including the serial number and the identification code;

in response to a reply from the server updating the license file with information

concerning the availability of the license; and

reading the license file for establishing whether the given software application can be

executed.

22. (Previously presented) A computer programmed according to claim 21, wherein the

transaction further comprises :

in response to reply from the server updating the license file with details of license rights

transmitted from the server; and

configuring the computer according to the license rights to execute a predetermined

software feature incorporated in the given software application.

23. (Currently amended) A method for controlling the execution of a given software

application in a computer system, the computer system including a server and a plurality

of computers, the method comprising:

creating a license file on one computer of the plurality of computers for a license to

operate the given software application, wherein the license is <u>voluntarily</u>

returnable by the one computer to the server for use by another computer of the

plurality of computers;

license assigning to the license file an identification code representing the one computer;

formulating a request to execute the given software application at the one computer, the

request including a serial number associated with the given software application

and an identification code of the one computer;

transmitting the request with the serial number and the identification code to the server;

in response to a reply from the server updating the license file with information concerning the availability of the license; and

reading the license file for establishing the status of the license at the one computer.

24. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 23 further comprising:

storing at the server information concerning license rights available under the license;

in response to the request from the one computer selecting license rights to be applied to the one computer and transmitting details of the selected rights to the one computer;

in response to the reply from the server updating the license file with details of the selected license rights transmitted from the server; and

configuring the one computer according to the selected license rights to execute a predetermined software feature incorporated in the given software application.

25. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 24 further comprising:

updating the license file on an ongoing basis during use of the predetermined feature by the one computer to record a current state of the license; and

when the license is no longer required transmitting details from the updated license file of the current state to the server.